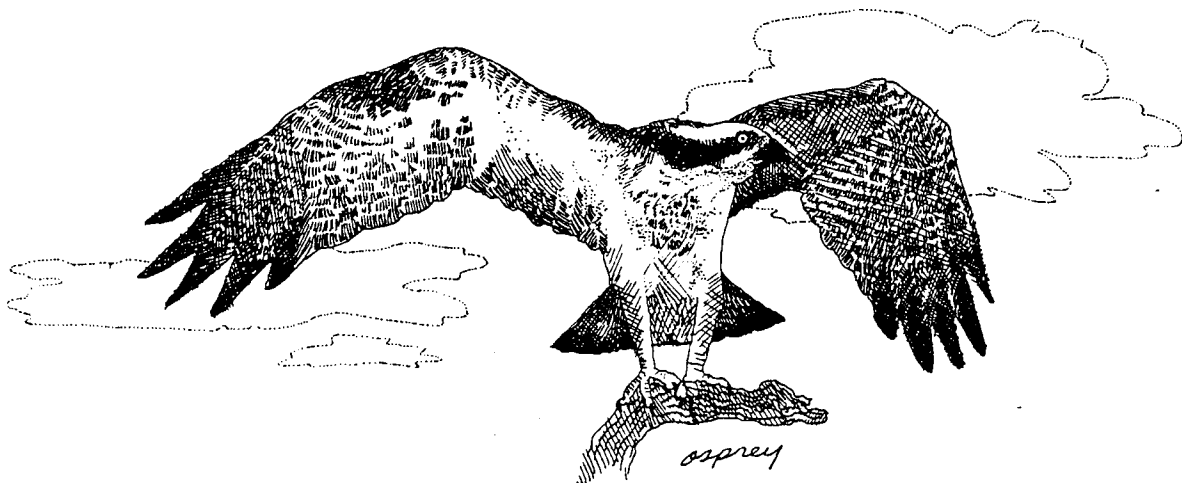


SURVEY OF NESTING OSPREY
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
AND
FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

APRIL 14 - JULY 28, 1989

BY

REESE F. LUKEI, JR.



A survey of nesting Osprey (*Pandion Haliaeetus*) was conducted by Reese F. Lukei, Jr., U S Fish and Wildlife trapping and banding permit #21524-B expiring 7-31-90. The survey was conducted in the bay waters of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (BBNWR) and False Cape State Park (FCSP). The survey was conducted by Lukei as a volunteer at BBNWR and under special use permit #052689-05 issued by FCSP. The dates of the survey were April 14, 1989, May 11, 1989, June 1, 1989, June 28, 1989 and July 28, 1989.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the number and location of nesting pairs of Osprey and the results of their egg laying activity. Additionally, the survey was to determine the condition of man-made nesting platforms and to make recommendations as to their repair and/or relocation.

All nest sites are man-made wooden platforms except False Cape sites #1,2,4,7,16,17. Sites #1,4, and 17 are natural nests in the top of tree snags. Site #2 is on the top of a water tank on Big Cedar Island. Site #7 is on the top of an old boat house at False Cape Landing. Site #16 is on a duck blind.

The survey was conducted with the assistance of personnel from BBNWR, whose help and cooperation was very much appreciated. These people were Tony Leger, Andy Orsargos, Gary Andres, Mary Feldman, and Terry Villaneuva. BBNWR provided the boat and equipment to make the survey.

SURVEY DATES AND PURPOSE

April 14, 1989	Determine site locations and occupancy
May 11, 1989	Determine active nests and # of eggs
June 1, 1989	Determine # of eggs hatched
June 28, 1989	Determine # of hatchlings and band those approximately 30 days of age
July 28, 1989	Determine # of fledglings and band those too young to band on June 28, 1989

SURVEY RESULTS

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Maps #1 and #2)

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u># Eggs</u>	<u># Young Born</u>	<u># Fledged</u>	<u>Band #</u>
1	Yes	0	0	0	
2	Yes	3	1	1	608-56701
3	Yes	0	0	0	
4	Yes	3	3	3	608-56702,03,04
5	Yes	3	0	0	
6	No longer in place				
7	Yes	4	0	0	
8	No longer in place				
9	No longer in place				
10	No				
11	Yes	3	0	0	
12	No				
13	No				
14	No				

False Cape State Park (Map #3)

1	Yes	? *	2	2	
2	Yes	? *	1	1	
3	Yes	4	0	0	
4	Yes	? *	1	1	
5	Yes	3	2	2	608-56705,06
6	No				
7	No				
8	No				
9	No longer in place				
10	No				
11	Yes	3	3	3	608-56710,11,12
12	Yes	4	2	2	608-56713,14
13	Yes	3	2	2	
14	Yes	4	3	3	608-56707,08,09
15	No				
16	Yes	3	2	2	608-56715,16
17	No				

* Unable to see into nest - too high

SURVEY DETAIL BY NEST SITE

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Site

- 1 This site is usually occupied each year. It is located just West of the Refuge office. While there was a pair of Osprey there all season there was no evidence that there were any eggs.
- 2 Needs an "Area Closed" sign.
- 3 Platform mislocated on 12/87 map as being on Ragged Island. Actually on southern end of Long Island at Gall Bush Point. Osprey on platform, but no evidence of eggs.
- 4 Most productive nest this year at BBNWR.
- 5 Eggs laid directly on screen wire and therefore probably did not incubate properly.
- 6 Platform no longer standing.
- 7 Eggs laid directly on screen wire and therefore probably did not incubate properly.
- 8 Platform no longer standing.
- 9 Platform no longer standing.
- 10 Platform empty. Surrounded by phragmites to the height of the platform.
- 11 Three eggs on nest as of 5/11/89. No sign of eggs or adults as of 6/1/89.
- 12 No sign of activity. No nest material on platform.
- 13 Not on 12/87 map. No nest material on platform. Platform should be moved to tip of inlet.
- 14 Not on 12/87 map. No nest material on platform. Platform should be moved to tip of inlet.

SURVEY DETAIL BY NEST SITE

False Cape State Park

Site

- 1 Natural site in top of dead tree, 20 feet in height. Unable to determine # of eggs. On June 28, 1989 2 immature Osprey were seen in the nest. On July 28, 1989, one was still on the nest and able to fly. Nest too high to apply bands to birds.
- 2 Nest on top of water tank on Big Cedar Island. 30 feet in height. One immature on nest as of June 28, 1989 and flying from nest on July 28, 1989. Nest too high to apply bands to birds.
- 3 4 eggs in nest on 5/11/89. 3 eggs and fragments from 4th egg in nest on 6/1/89. No sign of eggs on 6/28/89.
- 4 Natural site in top of dead tree 30 feet in height. Unable to determine # of eggs. On July 28, 1989 three Osprey flew from the nest area. At least one was immature, perhaps two.
- 5 Nest just north of Wash Woods.
- 6 No nesting material on platform. Platform leaning. Should be reset or moved to another location.
- 7 Boathouse at False Cape Landing. Was used for many years, but not in recent years.
- 8 No nesting material on platform.
- 9 No platform located.
- 10 No nesting material on platform.
- 11 Only nest in FCSP that all eggs hatched and young fledged.
- 12 Active nest platform.
- 13 Active nest platform. Mislocated on FCSP map provided.
- 14 Active nest platform.
- 15 No nest material on platform. Not on FCSP map provided.
- 16 Virginia Duck Blind #0008. On may 11, 1989 there were 2 eggs. On June 1, 1989 there were 3 eggs. On June 28, 1989 immature were too young to band. Banded 2 immature on July 28, 1989.
- 17 Natural site in top of tree, but no activity noted. Only 120 yards east from site #1.

U S FISH AND WILDLIFE BANDS SIZE #8 APPLIED

<u>Band #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Nest #</u>	
608-56701	6/28/89	2	BBNWR
02	"	4	"
03	"	4	"
04	"	4	"
05	"	5	FCSP
06	"	5	"
07	"	14	"
08	"	14	"
09	"	14	"
10	"	11	"
11	"	11	"
12	"	11	"
13	"	12	"
14	"	12	"
15	7/28/89	16	"
16	"	16	"

SUMMARY

	<u>Back Bay</u>	<u>False Cape</u>	<u>Total</u>
# nest sites	11	16	27
# active sites	7	10	17
# active nests with eggs	5	10	15
# eggs produced	16	(a)	(a)
# eggs hatched	4	18 (b)	22
# birds banded	4	12	16
# birds fledged	4	18 (b)	22

(a) Unable to determine because not able to count eggs at FCSP nests #1,2, and 4

(b) Estimate based upon fledged Osprey seen at nests #1,2, and 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Predation by raccoons or other animals may have been responsible for the loss of eggs at BBNWR nest #11 and FCSP nest #3. Perhaps also at BBNWR nest # 1. Predator guards made of galvanized metal attached to the platform poles may prevent this loss.

At BBNWR nests #5 and #7 the eggs were laid directly on the platform screen wire. Intervention in the form of placing nest material under the eggs may help with the incubation process and successful production of young Osprey.

BBNWR platform ^{*10}_A is surrounded by phragmites. Either the phragmites should be controlled or the platform moved to another location.

BBNWR platforms #12,13, and 14 and FCSP platforms #6,8,9 and 10 were not being used by the Osprey at all. Consideration should be given to relocating these platforms to another location.

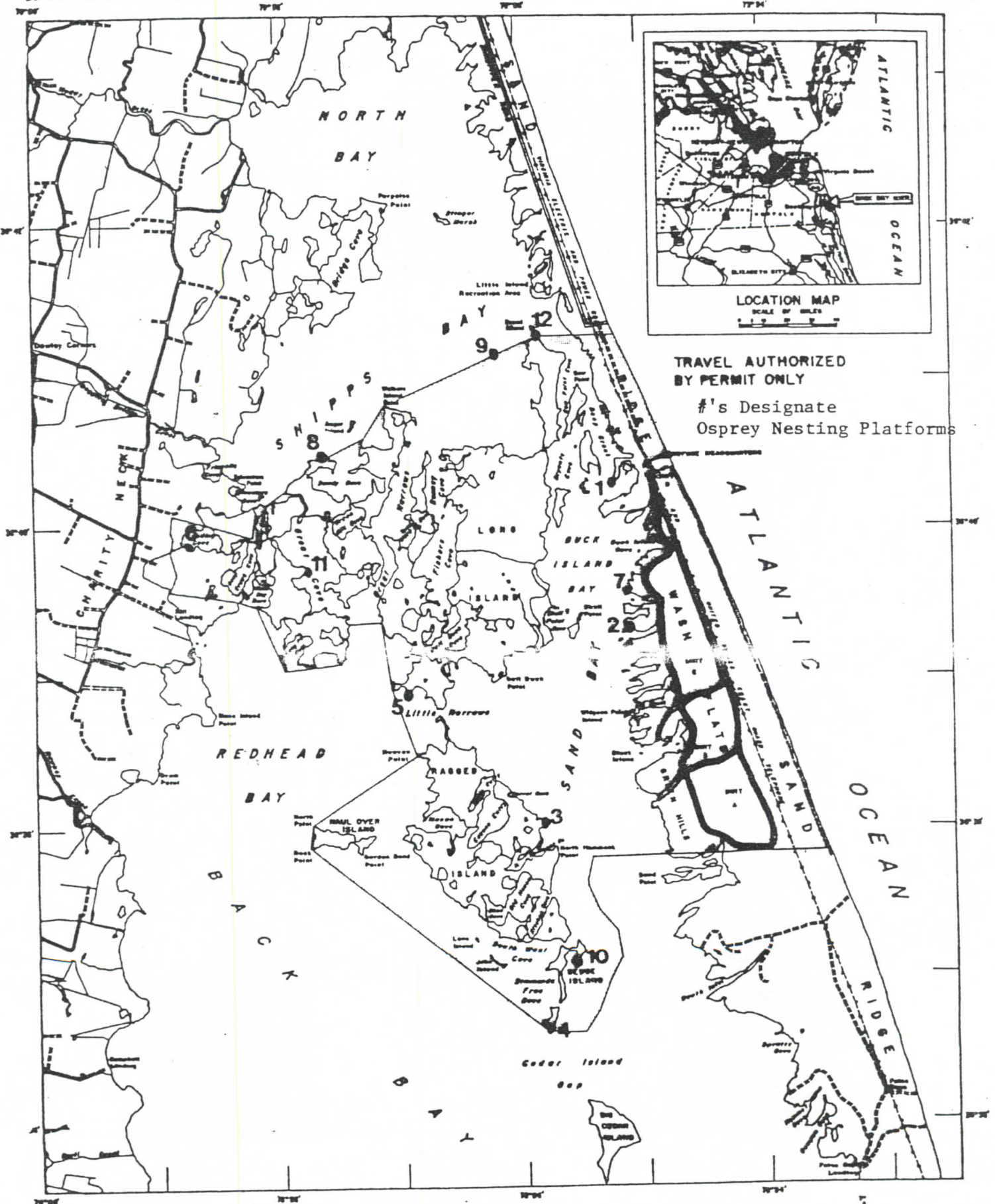
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

MAP #1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



TRAVEL AUTHORIZED
BY PERMIT ONLY

#'s Designate
Osprey Nesting Platforms

Figure 6. Location of current (12/87) osprey nesting platforms.

Scale 0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES

MEAN
DECLINATION
1964

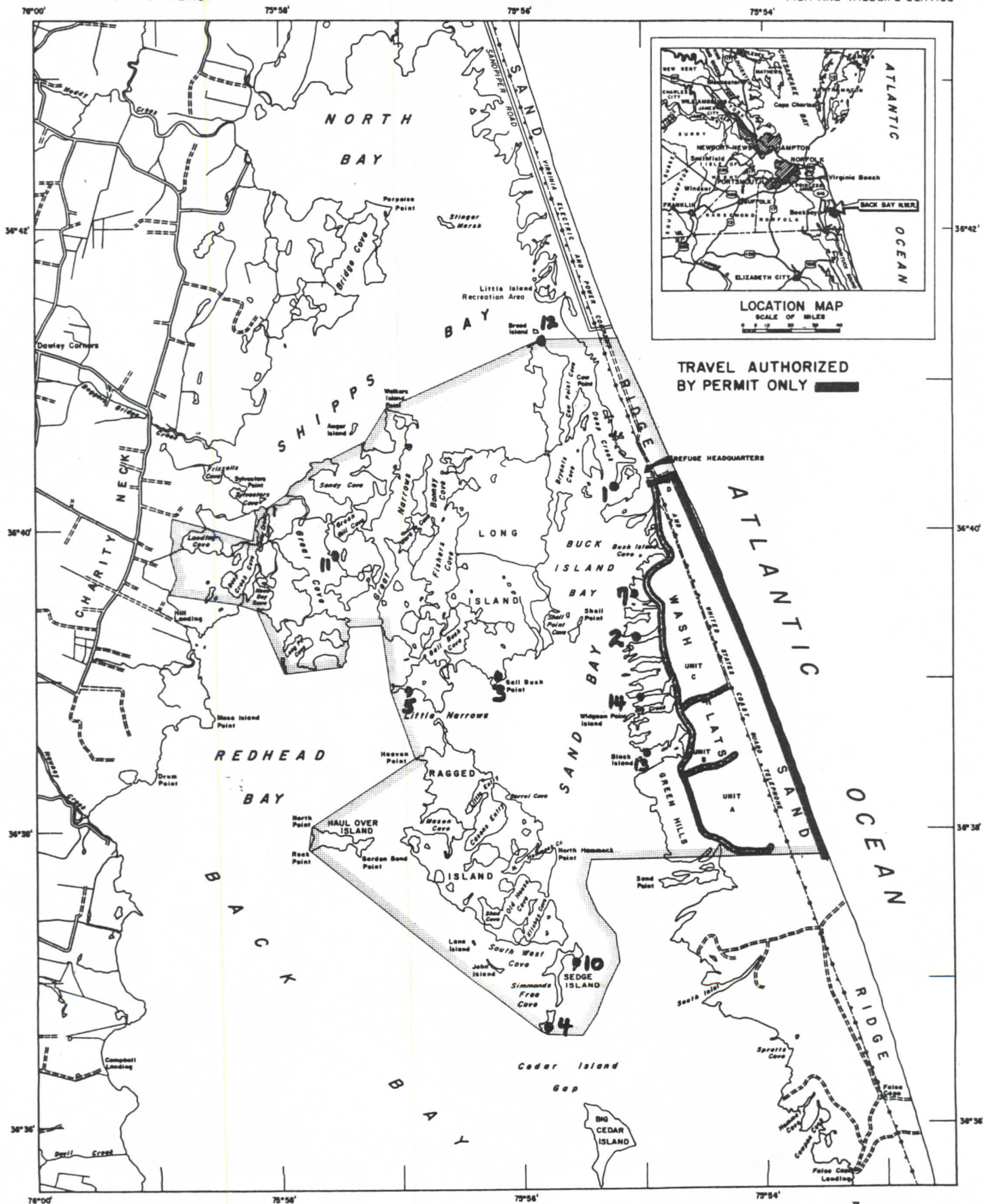
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Map #2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



TRAVEL AUTHORIZED
BY PERMIT ONLY

COMPILED IN THE BRANCH OF REALTY
FROM SURVEYS BY U.S.G.S.

Location of Osprey platforms as of July 28, 1989

NEWTON CORNER, MASS. FEBRUARY 1973



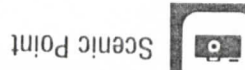
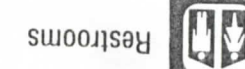
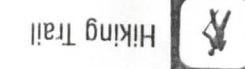
MEAN
DECLINATION
1984

5R VA 248



FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

LEGEND

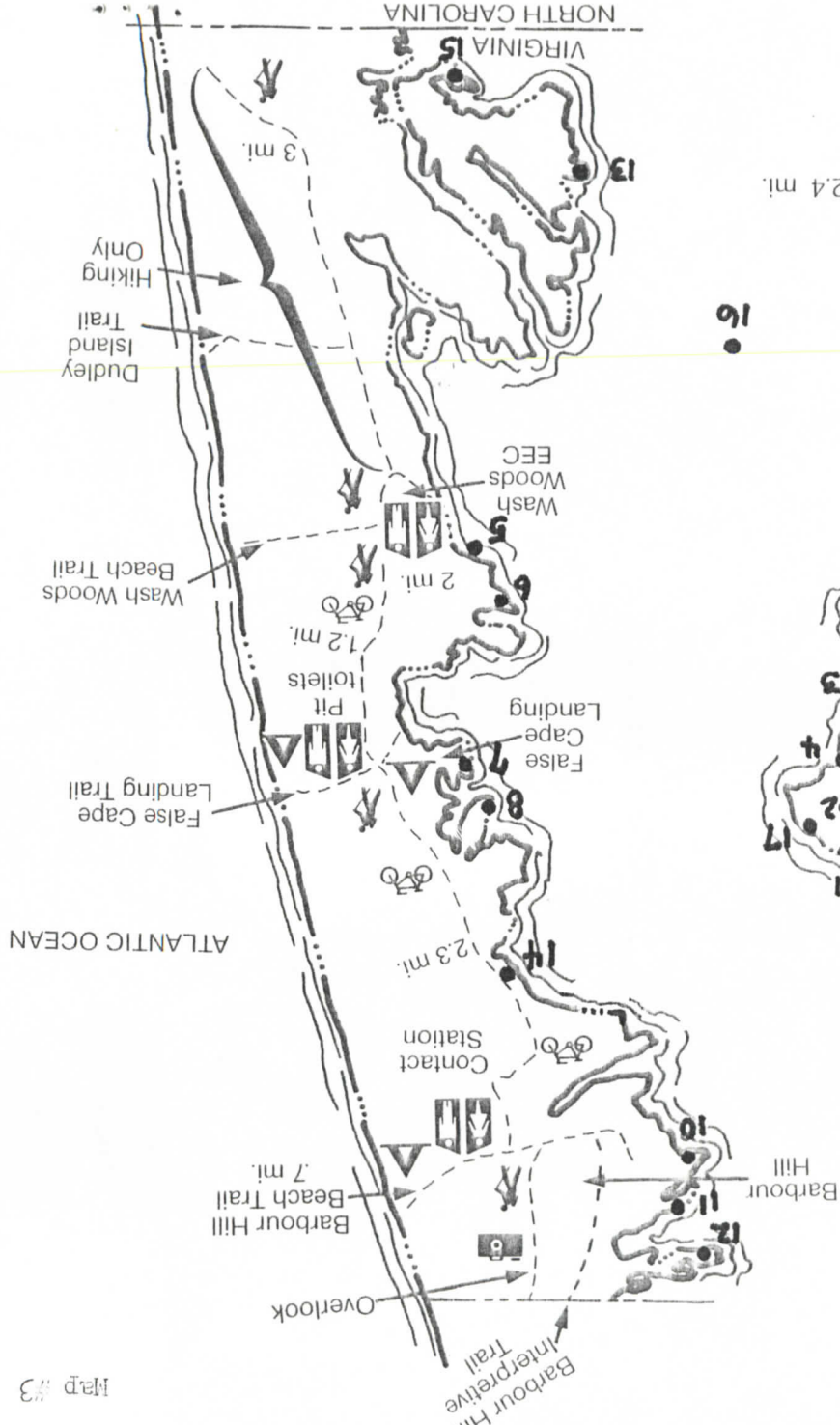


--- Park Boundary

Mileage for False Cape State Park Trails
 Barbour Hill Interpretive Trail — 2.4 mi.
 Barbour Hill Beach Trail — .7 mi.
 False Cape Landing Trail — .6 mi.
 Wash Woods Beach Trail — .8 mi.
 Dudley Island Trail — 3 mi.



16



Indi
Rc

Sea
p S